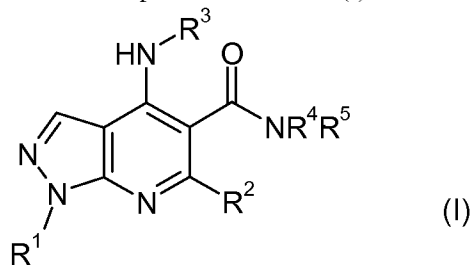


ABSTRACT

Pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine compounds, and their use as PDE4 inhibitors

The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof:

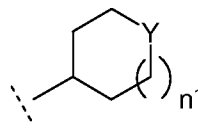
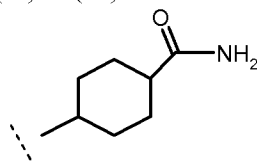


wherein:

R¹ is C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃fluoroalkyl, or -CH₂CH₂OH;

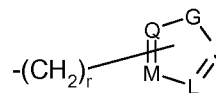
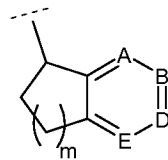
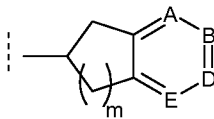
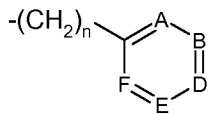
R² is hydrogen, methyl or C₁fluoroalkyl;

R³ is of sub-formula (aa) or (bb):



wherein Y is NCONH₂ and n¹ is 0 or 1;

R⁴ is H; and R⁵ is a group of the sub-formula (x), (y), (y1) or (z):



These compounds are PDE4 inhibitors.